

# Mrs. Parker's Parent Information Publication



Volume 1, Issue 5

February 2012

## Important Dates

### February 14<sup>th</sup>

Valentine's Day Party  
2:00 p.m. – 3:25 p.m.

### February 20<sup>th</sup>

Presidents' Day  
No School!

### February 21<sup>st</sup>

Author Visit:  
Johnathan Rand,  
"Michigan Chillers" series  
10:00 – 11:00 a.m.

### February 27<sup>th</sup>

Swoop Assembly  
2:00 p.m.

## Friendly Reminders

Every night your child is required to read a minimum of twenty minutes in his/her IDR or Book Club book and fill out his/her reading record.

If you have computer access at home, please utilize the lists of websites and passwords I sent home earlier in the school year. They are valuable resources for all subject areas!

## Teacher Contact Information

**Mrs. Parker:** [sparker@homeoftheshamrocks.org](mailto:sparker@homeoftheshamrocks.org)

269-473-0708

**Website:** <http://mrsparkerscomboclass.wikispaces.com>

You are welcome to write me a note in your child's planner!

## Happenings

**Writer's Workshop** – We are currently exploring the genre of personal essay writing, which is different from the personal narratives we published at the beginning of the school year. A personal essay not only tells a story, it also relates an important lesson developed from real life experiences. We've dove into the "Chicken Soup" books that are a compilation of personal essays to see some examples and to identify the characteristics they all share. Currently we are brainstorming ideas for our personal essay, searching our personal journals and writer's notebooks for ideas and inspiration. Our hope is to publish this piece by March 9<sup>th</sup>.

**Reader's Workshop** – We are revisiting the expository nonfiction genre, this time to identify the relationships that are the structure of text, essay, articles in magazines, and books. An article on cloning and another on junk food bans will be explored, looking for the pros and cons structure to the article. We spent several weeks previously on narratives and expository nonfiction, making inferences, asking why questions, and backing up the answers with evidence from the text.

**Math** – We are exploring different strategies to use when dividing four-digit whole numbers and decimals by two-digit whole numbers and decimals. We reviewed fact families very briefly, talked about the "friendly numbers" mental math strategy for division, and will be taking some time to do partial-quotients. Please refer to the parent letter that was sent home with your child if you are unfamiliar with any of these strategies. Many students are struggling with division due to the fact that they have not memorized their multiplication facts. Please encourage your child to review his/her multiplication flashcards at home to refresh those skills that were previously taught.

**Social Studies** – We finished chapter five on the route of exploration to the new world by studying several case studies on different explorers, what country they originated from, who funded their travels, and what lands they explored and claimed for their countries. Chapter six deals with early English settlements and the struggles they encountered.

**Science** – Our class is currently switching classes with Mrs. Tenter so we can begin the life science portion of fifth grade science studies. Mrs. Parker will continue teaching forces and motion, but will be working with Mrs. Tenter's class until the end of the school year.

**Word Study** - It is amazing how this new program has changed the way we do spelling! Our spelling inventory scores showed growth for every student. We are now down to three separate groups at three different levels, instead of the four we started out with at the beginning of the school year. Way to go!